

# Fact Sheet 4: Environmental Review

## Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan



Seattle Public Utilities (SPU) is preparing a supplemental environmental impact statement (SEIS) for the facility improvements recommended in the *Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan*. This environmental review, which supplements the EIS prepared for the *1998 Seattle Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan* and the *1990 Seattle Waste Transport and Disposal Project*, will provide an analysis of the potential adverse environmental impacts of recommended facility improvements and how those impacts may be addressed if they are determined to be significant.

The environmental review will focus on the following improvements:

- Building a new intermodal solid waste transfer facility at one of three alternative locations, and
- Rebuilding the two existing City transfer stations at their current locations, using additional property adjacent to each site.

Issues already identified in previous public meetings for evaluation include noise, air quality/odor, traffic, land use, and aesthetics/appearance. You are invited to comment and identify issues that you think should be addressed in this supplemental environmental review.

## Description of Alternatives Under Review

The Draft SEIS will address five alternatives:

**Alternative 1 (No Action)** proposes continuation of the status quo:

- Maintenance of the existing City-owned transfer stations as required to keep them operational
- Replacement of equipment when it wears out
- Replacement of the offices and scale houses to meet building requirements.

**Alternatives 2, 3, 4, and 5** all propose demolition and rebuilding of both the North and South Recycling and Disposal Stations at their current locations, using additional property adjacent to each site, and building a new intermodal transfer facility. They differ in the location and size of the proposed intermodal facility, as follows:

- Alternative 2: west side of Harbor Island at Terminal 10
- Alternative 3: west side of Harbor Island at Terminal 10 and adjoining Pendleton property south of Terminal 10 in conjunction with King County
- Alternative 4: south of Albro Place and west of Corgiat Drive, between railway lines and Interstate 5
- Alternative 5: west of Airport Way South and south of South Edmunds Street.



City of Seattle Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan — intermodal alternative sites.

Locations for the intermodal facility were selected for their proximity to rail lines and barge sites to provide the most flexibility for shipping solid waste out of the city. Aerial photos of sites are available on the project website.

## Background

The *1998 Seattle Comprehensive Solid Waste Plan* identified the need for facilities improvements. The recycling and disposal stations are almost 40 years old and are becoming less reliable as they age. They are subject to frequent breakdowns and the outdated designs are inefficient. Moreover, they lack the capacity to meet Seattle's future recycling and waste handling needs.

SPU has developed the *Draft Solid Waste Facilities Master Plan* over the past year and a half to identify improvements to the solid waste management system to meet the City's needs for at least the next 30 years. Throughout the analysis, SPU has received input from citizens, community and business organizations, facility staff, and other stakeholders.

Using this input, SPU narrowed an original list of more than 20 options down to a recommended option that includes siting a new intermodal solid waste transfer facility and rebuilding the existing recycling and disposal stations in Wallingford and South Park. SPU believes the recommended improvements will best improve service to customers, reduce environmental impacts, improve safety, and increase the efficiency of solid waste management in the city.

## Next Steps

The Draft SEIS is expected to be released in December 2004. At that time, the public will have the opportunity to review the document and comment on its completeness. Once finalized, the SEIS will be presented to the Mayor and City Council for final approval and selection of the appropriate alternative. The public will again have an opportunity to provide comments and ideas to the City as the project moves through the design phase.

**For Additional Information** about this project, including previous fact sheets and planning documents, please visit the SPU website at [www.seattle.gov/util/About\\_SPU](http://www.seattle.gov/util/About_SPU), or contact Henry Friedman, Project Manager, at (206) 733-9147 or [swfmp.spu@seattle.gov](mailto:swfmp.spu@seattle.gov).

**Send written comments** by September 12, 2004, to:

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## Project Timeline

### PLAN DEVELOPMENT

**Summer/Fall, 2002** - Identification of Problems, Goals and Development of Options

**Winter 2003** - Stakeholder/Community, and Public Meetings

**Spring 2003** - Refinement and Analysis of Preliminary Options

**April 2003** - Public Forums

**Summer-Fall 2003** - Further Analysis and Selection of Recommended Option

**Spring 2004** - Council Endorsement of Recommended Option for Environmental Review

### ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

**Spring 2004** - Start of Environmental Review Process

**August 2004** - Public Meetings

**December 2004** - Draft Supplemental EIS Issued

**January 2005** - Public Hearing of Draft SEIS

**Spring 2005** - Final SEIS & Council Review and Decision

### DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION

**Summer 2005** - Start of Design Process

**2006-2010** - Phased Construction of Facilities

**2008-2010** - New Facilities Operational